

What is claimed is:

1. A content distribution control system comprises a network having at least one terminal connected thereto, a content creation tool operable to assign indicia representative of a pre-determined level of control of said content, said content being subsequently made available to said network and said at least one terminal being responsive to said indicia to permit operations in relation to said content received from said network.
2. A system as claimed in Claim 1, including a communications link providing said tool with access to said network.
3. A system as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein content including said indicia is placed in a payload portion of a datagram.
4. A system as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said indicia is encrypted.
5. A system as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein said terminal includes a user interface operable in accordance with said indicia to permit operations available to a user of said terminal in relation to said content, said operations including the transfer of said content from volatile storage, into which content is received from said network, to user accessible storage.
6. A terminal having a first memory into which content is receivable, a second memory and a user interface operatively associated with said memories, such that a set of operations of said user interface in relation to said content received into said first memory is permitted by reference to said content, at least one of said operations permitted by said content being a transfer of said content to said second memory,

wherein a set of operations of said user interface in relation to said same content when received into said second memory is similarly permitted by reference to said content.

- 5 7. A terminal as claimed in Claim 6, further wherein said user interface is further operable to identify indicia associated with said content said permitted set of operations being determined therefrom.
- 10 8. A terminal as claimed in Claim 6 or Claim 7, wherein said first memory provides temporary storage of said content.
- 15 9. A method of creating content for controlled distribution comprises defining indicia representative of respective levels of control of content, determining a level of control appropriate to said content and assigning indicia to said content in accordance with said determination.
- 20 10. A method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said control permits at least one of the following operations, namely viewing, storing, deleting and forwarding of said content.
- 25 11. A method as claimed in Claim 9 or Claim 10, wherein content including said indicia is placed in a payload portion of a datagram.
- 30 12. A method of receiving content including indicia representative of allowable operations in respect of said content, comprises receiving said content into a first memory, generating a list of allowable operations in relation to said content from said indicia and displaying said list to a user.
13. A method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein transfer of said content to a second memory is included in said list of allowable operations.

14. A method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said first and second memories are respectively volatile and non-volatile.
- 5 15. A computer program comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method according to any one of Claims 9 to 11.
- 10 16. A computer program comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method according to any one of Claims 12 to 14.
- 15 17. A program as claimed in Claim 15 or Claim 16, stored in a computer readable medium.
- 20 18. A user interface for a terminal, wherein the interface is operable in accordance with an indicia associated with content received by the terminal, said indicia being representative of a pre-determined level of control of content, to permit operations available to a user of said terminal in relation to said content, said operations including the transfer of said content from volatile storage, into which content is received from said network, to user accessible storage.
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